



Midsouth Great Banquet and Awakening Spring Newsletter

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Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

Greetings Great Banquet brothers and sisters!

I bring you greetings from the GB board, to which I have returned. 😊 I have agreed to complete David Freeman's term of office, who needed to resign for

personal reasons. Already the board has been busy planning for a “new launch” in 2021, and we hope you’ll join us for as many things as possible. Elsewhere in this newsletter and/or in the months to come you’ll be receiving details about these things, but the two I want to mention here are the plans for Men’s and Women’s Spring Banquets (April 29-May 2 and May 6-9) at Pinecrest and several “Virtual Gatherings” with opportunities for you to see and visit with one another as well as worship together. Can I get a YAY?!! With that in mind, I’m pleased to announce that Dana and Kelly Blevins will be serving as the Men’s and Women’s Lay Directors, so you know those teams are going to rock!! See how to volunteer for one of the teams, along with other things we’re working on, elsewhere in this newsletter.

We also welcome two other new board members, Kecia Bradshaw along with Larry Bryant as your new Community Lay Director. In addition, Heather Lewis has agreed to serve as treasurer for the Great Banquet. I’m honored to be serving as Chair again for 2021, and I look forward to being able to see and fellowship with you all in the months to come. The board is working hard to ensure that 2021 will help to make up for the disappointments that 2020 afforded all of us, and I so hope you’ll be a part of our “relaunch.” As you’ve probably heard me say many times, “The best is yet to come!”

DeColores!!
Carrie Whaley

2021 Spring Banquets

Men's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #94

Thursday, April 29 - Sunday, May 2

Pinecrest Camp, 21430 TN-57, Moscow, TN 38057

Lay Director: Dana Blevins

Women's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #95

Thursday, May 6 - Sunday, May 9

Pinecrest Camp, 21430 TN-57, Moscow, TN 38057

Lay Director: Kelly Blevins

4th Day Event (No Potluck)

Saturday, May 15, 6-7 PM

Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 3427 Appling Road, Memphis, TN 38133

Introducing Our New Community Lay Director



Please join us in welcoming our new Community Lay Director, Larry Bryant! Larry attended Midsouth Great Banquet #64 and has served on many Banquets and Awakenings since then. He is a member and an elder at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Olive Branch. Larry is succeeding Kellie Evins as CLD. Make sure you reach out to Kellie and thank her for her wonderful service to our community, and reach out to Larry to welcome him to this new position!

Introducing Our New Board Members



Please join us in welcoming our newest board members, Kecia Bradshaw and Heather Lewis!

Kecia Bradshaw attended Great Banquet #81 and is a member of Fullview Missionary Baptist Church. She is succeeding John Bean as a board member. Make sure you reach out to John to thank him for his wonderful service to our community, and reach out to Kecia to welcome her to the board!

Heather Lewis attended Great Banquet #91 and is a member of Life Church. She is succeeding Lisa Murdoch as the Board Treasurer. Make sure you reach out to Lisa to thank her for her wonderful service to our community, and reach out to Heather to welcome her to the board!

Upcoming Virtual Worship Service

We have wonderful news! The Great Banquet and Awakening Board of Directors is planning a virtual worship service and fellowship event to take place on Facebook Live and Zoom. You are invited to join us for worship and fellowship on Saturday, April 17 at 7:00 PM on our Facebook page (which you can find [here](#)). We are so incredibly thankful to Restoration Church for leading our worship and bringing our message!

Reunion Group Testimonies

In these tough times of separation, it is more important than ever to stay connected to the community of faith. In our Great Banquet and Awakening Community, we experience this kind of connection through Reunion Groups. Reunion Groups are so crucial to continuing the Great Banquet and Awakening experience through our fourth days, so if you have not joined a Reunion Group and would like to, please reach out to Dale Irby (whose contact information is at the end of this email), or click [here](#) to view the Reunion Group database on our website.

As a testament to the ways Reunion Groups have helped us to stay connected through these difficult times, we are thankful to Janice Lamer-Kelley and John Street for sharing their experiences of their Reunion Groups!

Knock knock.. Who's there?

Who has been by your side this past year? How have you been by others this past year?

With the unforeseen experiences of this past year, we all have missed being together in a normal direct way that includes sharing laughter, tears, meals, and prayers. God gives us a tangible gift called relationship/friendship. A Spiritual friendship, through our Great Banquet retreat and community is a vital branch of our spiritual and emotional well-being. The SheBrews reunion group has made that commitment through this past year of Change! We have leaned in and stayed connected through texts, calls and even a few meetings via Zoom and or in person. We are studying a book called Lead Me, Holy Spirit by Stormie Omartian. This book has been one of Spiritual Reflection and reminded that God is with each of us in our Stuff. Covid illness inside our small group and life adjustments nudged us to be flexible but always intentional with our Faith knowing God is in Control and has never swayed from the different paths we have needed to make.

De Colores!

-Janice Lamer-Kelley

Reunion Groups Helped Me Through Life

I went through MSGB in fall 2013 and I didn't know what to expect afterwards. I thought it was going to be like when I got saved at 10yrs old, left to figure it out on my own with no follow up. Man was I wrong. I was immediately drafted into a reunion group in Olive Branch MS with guys from my church. I was the youngest in our reunion group and the guys adopted me like brothers, fathers, and grandfathers. They have stuck by me through all my ups and downs. When I lost my job, when I got dumped by a girl, when I had kidney stones and when I had my stroke. Our name was Mesa De Amigos or Table of Friends. The thing is we weren't just friends, we were family. When you go through a banquet you don't realize how big your family is until you see the outpouring of love when something happens. Your reunion group is like your immediate family that you see all the time and your banquet family is like your extended family that you see on special occasions.

De Colores!

-John Street



Now is the time to start making agape for the spring weekends. Please make 40 for each weekend. If you would like to give something special for guests only, the maximum number of guests each weekend is 12.

If you bring gifts for a particular guest or team member, it must be able to fit in the letter bag (size of a paper lunch bag) **along with** the letters.

Scholarships for the Weekend

Remember that scholarships are always a need for the Banquets and Awakenings.

There are many needs for the weekend and oftentimes we have guests or sponsors who are unable to pay the necessary fees. If you feel led, please email the board at boardofdirectors@midsouthgb.com to notify them of your desire to make a donation for a scholarship.



Please be in prayer for the spring lay directors as they prayerfully consider their teams as well as for potentials guests. Ask God to lay friends and family in your life upon your heart that you could sponsor for the spring banquets.

The 72 hour Prayer Charts for both weekends will soon be available on the website.

Once loaded, click on *Pray for Men's Team #94* and *Pray for Women's Team #95* found at the top, right of the home page.

Prayer Charts, as well as Sponsor and Registration Forms, can be found on the website, www.midsouthgb.com.

Note from the Board

If you or someone you know who is a member of the Mid-South Great Banquet or Awakening community has recently changed email address, physical address, or phone numbers, please contact Kecia Bradshaw and let her know so that she can update the database. Kecia's contact information is listed below with the board members.

2021 Board Members

Community Spiritual Director	Diann White	901-870-6777	diannwhite12@yahoo.com
Assist. Community Spiritual Director	Rodney Kirkwood	901-827-9420	rkirkwood777@gmail.com
Chairman of the Board	Carrie Whaley	731-431-4805	whaletales@outlook.com
Community Lay Directors	Sharon Stone	901-493-8072	chrestmanstone@bellsouth.net
	Larry Bryant	901-237-9037	larrybryant@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Heather Lewis	817-723-0567	hlewis21075@gmail.com
FACILITIES	Larry Potter	901-751-8334	judgelarrypotter@gmail.com
	Dan Kohr	901-828-2659	dkohr67@gmail.com
	Drill McLaughlin	901-237-0814	livnwrite1@gmail.com
LEADERSHIP	Dale Irby	901-488-0864	daleirby@yahoo.com
	Lisa Murdoch	901-496-5344	lmur0504@gmail.com
	Kecia Bradshaw	901-581-6820	Kecia.Bradshaw@gmail.com
COMMUNITY	Cindy Bauder	901-496-4318	bbcino@aol.com
	Paul Earheart-Brown	901-483-0018	paul.earheartbrown@gmail.com
	Katie Kirkpatrick	901-828-5520	kirkpatrickka91@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact any of the board members with any questions or concerns you have concerning the Mid-South Great Banquet or the Awakening.

Newsletter published quarterly for the Mid-South Great Banquet and Bartlett Awakening Communities.

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[Website](#)



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